

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Original) In the medical treatment of sleep apnea syndrome, the method of treatment comprised of applying to frontal portions of a patient's neck a pressure sufficiently less than ambient pressure to distend adjacent neck tissue in a manner effective for alleviating obstruction of the patient's airway in sleep.

2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, including the additional step of simultaneously applying an elevated pressure greater than the first mentioned said pressure within the patient's airway.

3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said elevated pressure is of a magnitude greater than ambient atmospheric pressure.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~In the medical treatment of~~ A method of treating sleep apnea syndrome, ~~the method of treatment comprised of~~ comprising: distending frontal portions of a patient's neck in a manner effective for alleviating obstruction of the patient's airway in sleep by applying a distending force on such a patient's neck tissue in a direction generally perpendicular to a surface on which the distending force is applied.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 4, including the additional step of simultaneously applying an elevated pressure within the patient's airway.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein said elevated pressure is of a magnitude greater than ambient atmospheric pressure.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~In the medical treatment of~~ A method of treating upper airway disorders, the method of treatment comprised of comprising: distending frontal portions of a patient's neck in a manner effective for alleviating obstruction of the patient's airway by applying a distending force on such a patient's neck tissue in a direction generally perpendicular to a surface on which the distending force is applied.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 7, including the additional step of simultaneously applying an elevated pressure within the patient's airway.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein said elevated pressure is of a magnitude greater than ambient atmospheric pressure.